

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 IO-14 EB-08 HA-05

OES-07 /054 W

-----007647 160727Z /14

O R 151419Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6979

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3432

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO) HAS BOUGHT 360 METRIC TONNES OF MAIZE FROM ZAMBIA TO AVERT A FAMINE NOW THREATENING SWAPO (SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION) REFUGEES LIVING IN ANGOLA, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED HERE.

CONFIRMING THIS YESTERDAY, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) DEPUTY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, JERROLD BERKE, TOLD THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA THAT THE MAIZE, BOUGHT BY THE FAO'S WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WOULD BE AIRLIFTED BY AN AIRCRAFT PROVIDED BY AN UNNAMED EUROPEAN COUNTRY.

THE TIMES QUOTES THE UNDP OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT ABOUT 2,000 BAGS OF MAIZE WERE ALREADY AT LUSAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AWAITING SHIPMENT, POSSIBLY THIS FRIDAY.

"SWAPO HAS REQUESTED US FOR ASSISTANCE TO BUY MAIZE FOR ITS REFUGEES LIVING IN CAMPS AROUND ANGOLA AND AS AN

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY, WE HAVE OBLIGED," MR. BERKE REPORTEDLY SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIZE WAS NOT FOR SWAPO FREEDOM FIGHTERS, WHO, HE ADDED, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSIST.

"WE DO NOT PROVIDE ANY COMBATANTS WITH HELP AND I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THIS MAIZE IS FOR SWAPO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

LIVING IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN ANGOLA." HE TOLD THE TIMES.
DELEGATES TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE LUSAKA-BASED
MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTER (MULPOC)
HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ESTABLISH PREFERENTIAL TRADE
AREAS WITH A VIEW OF FORMING AN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN THE
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN REGION OF AFRICA.
ACCORDING TO THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE DELEGATES AND
ANNOUNCED HERE BY ZAMBIA'S MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AND
TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, PETER MATOKA, AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR CHARGED
WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PREPARING A CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF TRADE, FINANCE AND PLANNING.
MEANWHILE, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA HAS OPENED
A FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE HERE ON AFRICA'S URANIUM DEPOSITS.
THE CONFERENCE IS BEING ATTENDED BY OVER 100 SCIENTISTS FROM
AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, AND IS BEING
SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.
ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA03432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770423-1208
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771158/aaaabxnd.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 586561
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO) HAS BOUGHT 360 METRIC TONNES OF MAIZE FROM ZAMBIA
TAGS: SREF, SOPN, WA, UN
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f29c519-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009